

HOUSE No. 1966

By Miss Reinstein of Revere, petition of Kathi-Anne Reinstein relative to pedestrians and motor vehicles operations upon the approach of emergency vehicles. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE OPERATION OF VEHICLES AND ACTIONS OF PEDESTRIANS ON APPROACH OF AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Chapter 90 as appearing in the 2002 Official Edition is hereby
2 amended by inserting after section 16A the following section:—
3 Section 16B. (a) Upon the immediate approach of an autho-
4 rized emergency vehicle that is en route to meet an existing emer-
5 gency, the driver of every other vehicle shall, when such
6 emergency vehicle is giving audible signals by siren, exhaust
7 whistle, or other adequate device, or visible signals by the use of
8 displayed blue or red lights, yield the right-of-way to the emer-
9 gency vehicle and shall immediately proceed to a position parallel
10 to, and as close as reasonable to, the closest edge of the curb of
11 the roadway, clear of any intersection and shall stop and remain in
12 position until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed or
13 unless otherwise directed by any law enforcement officer.
14 (b) When an authorized emergency vehicle making use of any
15 visual signals is parked or a wrecker displaying amber rotating or
16 flashing lights is performing a recovery or loading on the road-
17 side, the driver of every other vehicle, as soon as it is safe:
18 (1) shall vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle or
19 wrecker when driving on an interstate highway or other highway
20 with two or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency
21 vehicle or wrecker, except when otherwise directed by a law
22 enforcement officer; and

23 (2) shall slow to a speed that is 20 miles per hour less than the
24 posted speed limit when the posted speed limit is 25 miles per
25 hour or greater; or travel at 5 miles per hour when the posted
26 speed limit is 20 miles per hour or less, when driving on a two-
27 lane road, except when otherwise directed by a law enforcement
28 officer.

29 (c) Every pedestrian using the road right-of-way shall yield the
30 right-of-way until the authorized emergency vehicle has passed,
31 unless otherwise directed by any police officer.

32 (d) A violation of this section is a non-criminal traffic infrac-
33 tion, punishable pursuant to chapter 90 as either a moving viola-
34 tion for infractions of section (16), or as a pedestrian violation for
35 infractions of section (18A).